

Topics

- Battling Bastards
- Diversity Award
- Death March
- 22nd Annual March
- APACHE 8
- WWII Civilian POWs
- Easter Eggs and Bunny
- EEO Contacts
- SEPM

April

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- National Humor Month
- International Guitar Month
- Keep America Beautiful Month
- Lawn and Garden Month
- Poetry Month
- National Pecan Month
- National Welding Month
- Records and Information Management Month
- Stress Awareness Month

If you're going through hell,
keep going
~Winston Churchill~

The Philippine Department was the U.S. Army's overall administrative structure in the Philippines until July 26, 1941. The department commanded all U.S. military units in the islands except the U.S. Navy. All of the units wore the Philippine Department's blue and white "Mer-lion" patch, except the Philippine Division.



Bataan Memorial

No Mama, No Papa, No Uncle Sam...

Battling Bastards of Bataan

By the spring of 1941, rising tensions between the United States and Japan made it clear the two countries were headed for a show-down. Japan was a relatively isolated group of islands lacking in raw mineral resources like oil and iron. After almost a decade of war with China, an aggressive Japan had ambitions of taking the entire Pacific Rim, including Australia, as part of a greater Japanese Empire.

The Philippines lay in their path. The United States had acquired the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico in the Spanish-American War with Spain in 1898. Though plans were underway to grant the Philippines their independence, the islands had become one of the United States' most strategic locations.

In a war against the U.S., time was Japan's weakness; lacking in steel and fuel, it could not sustain a long war with the energy and resource rich United States. It therefore had to strike fiercely and decisively and could spare no delays. For its part, the United States had a military 10 percent the size of today's. The isolationist policies of the 1920s and 1930s put America's military behind and unprepared for war. That partially explains why thousands of National guardsmen from small towns around the country joined thousands of enlisted Army, Navy, and Air Corps personnel in the summer of 1941 in the Philippines.

Together, about 30,000 Americans, 25,000 Filipino regular Army and roughly 100,000 Filipino raw volunteers were to face the battle-hardened Japanese 14th Army. Numbers were in the defenders favor, but supplies, food, and medicine soon dwindled due to the large size of the allied forces. The Japanese invasion of the Philippines began just hours after their planes had left Pearl Harbor in flames.

It took a day for the American air fleet to be destroyed and by January, those who had trained in the Air Corps became support infantry over night. The American and Filipino forces were soon ordered to head south to defend the Bataan Peninsula. With battles and skirmishes raging for four months, the mission was understood; to hold out and delay the Japanese as long as possible to allow America and Australia time to build. Rations were cut, medicine to fight malaria was in short supply, and the aged, out-dated weaponry used by the Americans, some of it pre-World War I era, was soon wearing out.

In March, General Douglas MacArthur and his staff had been ordered by President Franklin Roosevelt to flee the Philippines by boat to Australia. MacArthur's famous promise "I shall return" did little to assure those left to fight on Bataan and Corregidor that help was on the way. It became obvious it was not.

The men soon began to refer to themselves as the "Battling Bastards of Bataan," and recited the lines "no mama, no papa, no Uncle Sam...No pills, no planes, no artillery pieces, and nobody gives a damn" with a dark sense or irony. Stories of heroism in battle abounded and numerous citations were awarded for combat heroism.

Fearing the inevitable and the total slaughter of thousands of American and Filipino wounded in military hospitals and knowing the fight could no longer continue, Bataan commander General Edward King was forced to surrender his troops on April 9,1942, despite the wishes of many who wished to continue to fight. King later took the blame for the surrender, abdicating his men from responsibility. The events following surrender were far worse than any imagined.

What came to be known as the Bataan Death March, known as one of the greatest inhumanities of WWII, and also as one of the greatest displays of heroism and human will power on the part of its survivors, began almost immediately after the American and Filipino forces began to be assembled in the large fields outside of Mariveles. For the Japanese, it was a logistical nightmare. There were far more prisoners than they had anticipated and they had to move them out of the south to the north. The Japanese were preparing their assault on the off-shore island of Corregidor where American forces were still holding on, including hundreds who fled Bataan. Lacking anywhere near enough trucks to transport the 70,000 prisoners of war, a forced march became the only way to move them.

There were several starting points along the march and the exact number who took part or who died on the march have been almost impossible for historians to determine. The chaos following surrender and the destruction of records, as well as the many, almost faceless deaths on the march made the numbers hard to track.

About 11,700 Americans and as many as 65,000 Filipinos began the 65+ mile march from the Bataan Peninsula to San Fernando. Of those, between 600-700 Americans and between 5,000 and 10,000 Filipinos died during the march.

Continued PG2

2011 Diversity Conference Award Nominee

CONGRATULATIONS to Lt Col Allen E. Kirksey for winning the Excellence in Diversity Award - Individual category. He was recognized for his excellent contributions to the Arizona National Guard and his involvement with his community. Lt Col Kirksey's professional accomplishment and achievement beyond the standard duties and requirements of his position were recognized with notable achievements. He received his award during the 2011 Diversity Conference in Boston, MA.



Bataan Death March continued...

Days of April

1 [April Fool's Day](#)

1 [International Fun at Work Day](#)

1 [International Tatting Day](#)

1 [National Walk to Work Day](#) - first Friday of month

2 [Children's Book Day](#)

2 [National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day](#)

2 [Reconciliation Day](#)

3 [Don't Go to Work Unless it's Fun Day](#) - we know your decision

4 [Walk Around Things Day](#)

4 [School Librarian Day](#)

5 [Go for Broke Day](#)

6 [Plan Your Epitaph Day](#) - a little morbid if you ask me

7 [Caramel Popcorn Day](#) - Most likely created by a popcorn maker, or an Ecard company.

7 [No Housework Day](#)

7 [World Health Day](#)

8 [All is Ours Day](#)

8 [Draw a Picture of a Bird Day](#)

9 [Name Yourself Day](#)

9 [Winston Churchill Day](#)

10 [Golfer's Day](#)

10 [National Siblings Day](#)

11 [Eight Track Tape Day](#) - do you remember those?

11 [Barbershop Quartet Day](#)

The causes of death ranged from malaria, dysentery, starvation, to sheer exhaustion and brutal beatings and slayings. Other deaths were indescribably horrific and violent. Many Filipinos were beheaded and Americans and Filipinos suffered the 'sun treatment'- Hours where soldiers were forced to look toward the sun; falling out meant death. They were also forced to stand at attention for hours at a time in the scorching sun. If you were caught moving or shifting weight from leg to leg, you were killed. Julio Barela recalled in his autobiography "In the eyes of the Japanese, we were cowards to have surrendered as they believed that taking your own life was a far better fate. We were beaten, slapped, pushed, tortured and yelled at while we marched. I was struck on the back of the head with the butt of the rifle of one of my captors. I remembered thinking of my mother and how she would suffer if I died. So I balanced as much as I could so as not to fall. Once an American soldier would fall he would be stabbed with the bayonet or shot. Several of my comrades fell from fatigue on top of illness and would not go on. They were immediately killed. All the time I thought I would be next."

The Japanese denied water to their prisoners of war, even though springs were located all along the road. Men driven mad by thirst plunged into disease-infested mud pits, only to be shot or beaten. Those who survived soon came down with any number of diseases, from pellagra to dysentery. Some received food the first night, but it was little more than a ball of rice, at best. Many went without any food or water for the days it took to complete the march.

By the second day, the worn and battered men, many of them marching the dusty roads in their bare fee, began to fall. As some fell, those standing close would help, but this was not always the case. The march became a matter of survival of the fittest, though there are many accounts of lives being save by selfless acts. Some of the men were carried into San Fernando by friends and comrades from their units. Upon arrival in San Fernando, the men were packed into cramped boxcars and taken by train to Camp O'Donnell.

Those who were glad the march was over found no relief at Camp O'Donnell, a place whose death toll became so high the Japanese eventually were forced to close it down. A campground possibly designed for less than 10,000 people was now packed with 50,000 diseased and starved American and Filipino prisoners of war. The POWs were greeted by the Japanese commandant of Camp O'Donnell, who gave the survivors a chilling and short speech. He said "We are enemies. We shall always be enemies. The only thing I am concerned of is how many of you are dead every morning." POWs remembered the commandant adding the survivors should envy those who died on the Death March, "For they are the lucky ones." The camp was to crowded and there were no facilities so the soldiers built trenches for latrines, which turned foul soon after. The rice they were given was worm-infested and men screamed and cried as their temperatures rose from dysentery and malaria.

Several weeks after Corregidor fell on May 6, the new American and Filipino prisoners of war entered Camp O'Donnell to find the shocking conditions within. Clearly, those who made the march stood a worse chance of survival than those who did not. Burial details were organized and burring 76 men on the first day. In a little more than a month, more than 1500 Americans and 20,000 Filipinos died in Camp O'Donnell, with each one of those numbers representing a singularly different and individual experience. Disease, exhaustion and torture, combined with the cramped conditions and the complete lack of even the most basic and humane provisions, led to one of the highest rates of POW deaths in World War II. A majority of those who died within the first weeks were under the age of 30.

Most Filipinos were set free by the end of 1942, but their people and their country were under occupation by a tyrannical force that ruled by fear. The Filipinos were also singled out for the harshest punishments during the Death March, but many continued to fight against the Japanese in guerrilla forces after they were freed.

After Camp O'Donnell, 3 1/2 years of imprisonment in forced labor camps throughout the Japanese empire followed for Espinosa and the rest of the American prisoners. Some were sent to the even more horrific Camp Cabanatuan, the home of the infamous Zero Ward, where thousands died mind-numbingly painful deaths from beriberi, dysentery, and starvation.

Others were sent to as many as 70 Japanese prisoner of war camps around the Philippines, Japan, and China, where they endured 3 1/2 years of forced labor in rice fields, sugar cane processing factories, coal mines, or smelters.

It was not until the end of 1942 and into 1943 the Red Cross was finally permitted entry into the camps. They brought small food packets and some medicine, but nowhere near enough. They also provided cards for the POWs to send to their families at home, but the cards only contained the most basic information.

The death rate did slow as food conditions improved, but the illnesses and beatings by the Japanese, and their Korean subordinates, continued.

By the end of 1943, and into late 1944, thousands of American prisoners of war were being packed into the dark hulls of cargo ships and sent to forced labor camps in Japan or China. Not wanting to lose the free labor, the Japanese were nevertheless transporting the prisoners in unmarked ships (the Geneva Convention, which the Japanese did not follow, mandates that ships carrying POWs must be marked with a Red Cross).

The conditions on the "Hell Ships" defy description; weeks were spent in the crowded damp hulls of the ships. There was no room to sit and most had diarrhea or dysentery. Little to no water or food was given to the men during the ordeal, and some were driven mad, forced to drink urine or slash their comrades throats to drink blood. Hundreds suffocated to death or were killed. American torpedoes and bombers sunk many ships, and while most surviving POWs were recaptured, some swam to safety and became among the first to report the conditions in the Japanese prison camps.

Those who made it to Japan and China continued to toil in forced labor camps or in factories owned by companies still in existence today, such as Mitsubishi. Liberation for most came by August 1945, though some were freed earlier in the year by advancing U.S. Marines, Army, Air Force and Navy forces. Some ex-POWs reported seeing the nuclear cloud rising at Nagasaki that led to the end of the war.

The actual surrender of the Japanese was on August 9, 1945. Planes began to fly over and dropped notes instructing to identify the camp with a big "POW" on top of the compounds.

For decades few spoke of their experiences, as most were haunted by nightmares and lingering physical effects. Recognition of their ordeal has become well known and is commemorated through the nation.

22ND Annual Bataan Death March White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico

Thousands of participants honored WWII American Soldiers who marched through Philippine jungles back in 1942. Participants of the 22nd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March imprint their footprints on the 26.2 mile desert trail on the 27th of March 2011 at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. There was a record number of over 6,000 marchers who participated. This march commemorates the original Bataan Death March which occurred in the Philippines during World War II. On the 9th of April 1942, 75,000 Military to include some civilians were forced to march 60+ miles in the sweltering heat through the Philippine jungles, thousands of soldiers died in transit to prisoner-of-war camps.

The 23rd annual Bataan Memorial Death March is tentatively scheduled for the 25th of March



Arizona
Events Calendar Day
by Day!

Click on Link

[http://emol.org/arizona/
events/2011/april.html](http://emol.org/arizona/events/2011/april.html)

APACHE 8

In friendship's fragrant garden,
There are flowers of every hue.
Each with its own fair beauty
And its gift of joy for you.

~Unknown~



- April Days continued...
- 11

[National Submarine Day](#)
- 12

[Big Wind Day](#) - this day blows me away!
- 13

[Scrabble Day](#)
- 14

[International Moment of Laughter Day](#)
- 14

[Look up at the Sky Day](#) - don't you have anything better to do?
- 14

[National Pecan Day](#)
- 14

[Reach as High as You Can Day](#)
- 15

[Rubber Eraser Day](#)
- 15

[Titanic Remembrance Day](#)
- 16

[National Eggs Benedict Day](#)
- 16

[National Librarian Day](#)
- 16

[National Stress Awareness Day](#)
- 17

[Blah, Blah, Blah Day](#)
- 17

[National Cheeseball Day](#)
- 17

[Pet Owners Independence Day](#)
- 18

[International Juggler's Day](#) - also applies to multi tasking office workers
- 18

[Newspaper Columnists Day](#)
- 18

[Patriot's Day](#) - third Monday of the month
- 19

[National Garlic Day](#)
- 20

[Look Alike Day](#)
- 20

[Volunteer Recognition Day](#)
- 21

[Kindergarten Day](#)
- 21

[National High Five Day](#) third Thursday
- 22

[Girl Scout Leader Day](#)
- 22

[National Jelly Bean Day](#)

APACHE 8, a heart-felt documentary about the first all-women firefighting crew, Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc. (NAPT) proudly announces the release of a new documentary that shares stories from the APACHE 8 all-women wildland firefighter crew. The APACHE 8 firefighter crew was not only the first of its kind, but it is also the longest lasting all-women firefighting crew in the United States.



APACHE 8 tells the story of an all-women wildland firefighter crew from the White Mountain Apache Tribe, who have been fighting fires in Arizona and throughout the U.S., for over 30 years. The film delves into the challenging lives of these Native firefighters. Four extraordinary women from different generations of the APACHE 8 crew share their personal narratives with humor and tenderness. They speak of hardship and loss, family and community. And pride in being a firefighter from Fort Apache. APACHE 8 weaves together a compelling tale of these remarkable firefighters, revealed for the first time.

View Trailer at - <http://www.apache8.com/>

WWII - Civilian POWs

When we think of Prisoners-Of-War (POWs), we assume that they are all soldiers. Unfortunately civilian missionaries had to endure the traitorous camps also for Three and a half long years. Eighteen-year-old Don Mansell, his brother, and his parents were sailing to Africa as missionaries and were caught in the Philippines when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Three weeks later they were taken prisoner in Baguio and spent the next three years in a Japanese concentration camp. Liberation came 37 months later when General MacArthur's forces retook the Philippines. The book *Under the Shadow of the Rising Sun* written by Donald E. Mansell is an honest, gripping, sometimes whimsical account of daily life as a prisoner of war. It is also compelling history, revealing the long-glossed-over, and sometimes falsified, accounts of Emperor Hirohito's involvement in World War II. Through the eyes of a survivor, the book discovers the role of trials in developing faith, and the interventions of a merciful Providence in an unforgettable true-live adventure.

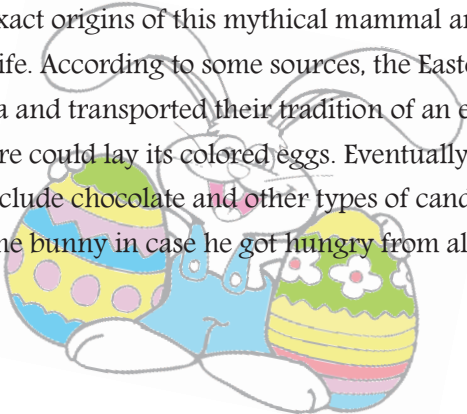
Easter Eggs

Easter is a religious holiday, but some of its customs, such as Easter eggs, are likely linked to pagan traditions. The egg, an ancient symbol of new life, has been associated with pagan festivals celebrating spring. From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection. Decorating eggs for Easter is a tradition that dates back to at least the 13th century, according to some sources. One explanation for this custom is that eggs were formerly a forbidden food during the Lenten season, so people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, then eat them on Easter as a celebration.



Easter Bunny

The Easter bunny has become a prominent symbol of Christianity's most important holiday. The exact origins of this mythical mammal are unclear, but rabbits, known to be prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of fertility and new life. According to some sources, the Easter bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws." Their children made nests in which this creature could lay its colored eggs. Eventually, the custom spread across the U.S. and the fabled rabbit's Easter morning deliveries expanded to include chocolate and other types of candy and gifts, while decorated baskets replaced nests. Additionally, children often left out carrots for the bunny in case he got hungry from all his hopping.



Did You Know?

The largest Easter egg ever made was over 25 feet high and weighed over 8,000 pounds. It was built out of chocolate and marshmallow and supported by an internal steel frame.



ARIZONA NATIONAL GUARD
STATE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT MAN-
AGEMENT OFFICE
-Updated 08 April 2011-

April Days continued...

- 23 Lover's Day
- 23 National Zucchini Bread Day - they hold this at a time when you are not sick of all that zucchini.
- 23 Take a Chance Day
- 23 World Laboratory Day
- 24 Pig in a Blanket Day
- 25 Dyngus Day always the Mon-day after Easter
- 25 East meets West Day
- 25 World Penguin Day
- 26 Executive Admin's Day
(Secretary's Day)
- 26 Hug an Australian Day
- 26 National Pretzel Day
- 26 Richter Scale Day
- 27 Babe Ruth Day
- 27 National Prime Rib Day
- 27 Tell a Story Day
- 28 Great Poetry Reading Day
- 28 Kiss Your Mate Day - guys, do not forget this one. Kiss her, then read her some poetry.
- 29 Greenery Day
- 29 National Shrimp Scampi Day
- 30 Hairstyle Appreciation Day
- 30 National Honesty Day

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Avenues for Assistance

AZNG Chaplain's Office
Soldier Support Center
Physicians
Inpatient & Outpatient clinics
Wellness Center's at Luke or
Davis Monthan AFB.

Community information Referral
Service
Www.cirs.org
602-263-8856
1-800-352-3792

Military One Source
Www.militaryonesource.com
1-800-342-9647

References

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/macarthur/sfeature/bataan_prison.html

<http://www.bataancv129.org/history.htm>

[http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Bataan_\(1945\)](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Bataan_(1945))

<http://www.apache8.com/>

<http://www.quotegarden.com/spring.html>

<http://www.bataandiary.com/Research.htm>

Spꚓcial Emphasis Programs

Would you like to Participate?

You can be a part of the Special Emphasis Programs (SEP's) listed and help assist with the recruitment, selection, development, and career advancement for minority groups and Women in the Federal Government.

What are Special Emphasis Programs?

The programs are federally mandated to help with recruitment, selection, development, and career advancement for minorities and Women in the Federal Government.

What are SEPM's?

The Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPM's) are collateral duty managers that advise management and other agency officials in the implementation of the programs.